

## Get Your Furniture Bank Newsletter Faster Online

Who will be recognized as the 2010 volunteer of the year? If you get the Red Chair times through the mail only, you will have to wait until August to find out. Want to know sooner? Sign up to receive the e-version of the newsletter online! Get monthly organizational updates sent right to your e-mailbox. Save a tree, save a stamp—and save the suspense!

## Save the Date: June 20, 2011 Volunteer Participation Celebration!

It's not easy turning thousands of empty houses into homes every year. It would be flat out impossible if not for volunteers. In 2010 volunteers dedicated over 11,000 hours of time furthering the Furniture Bank mission. And this has been time well spent! Our volunteer ranks have helped do everything you can imagine and then some. From building tables to planning events to managing inventory, our talented volunteer corps has stepped up whenever and wherever duty has called.

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THE RED CHAIR TIMES



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# THE RED CHAIR TIMES

Stories of Turning Empty Houses into Homes

Spring 2011

## Kathe's Kids Get the Gift of Home



May means Mother's Day, and there are mothers all over Central Ohio struggling to provide for their families. Kathe is actually a grandmother-turned-mother again after being granted full custody of her three young grandchildren. Kathe was thrilled to take care of the kids, but she could not afford all of their furniture needs.

A Head Start caseworker sponsored a visit to the Furniture Bank so Kathe could acquire adequate furniture for her expanded family. She was extremely grateful for the opportunity. "I cried, I was so overwhelmed by their kindness," said Kathe. "Everyone was so nice and helpful. The point system was easy, and I was delighted by how generous they were."

Kathe takes pride in the gift of home she was able to provide her grandchildren thanks to the items she received from the Furniture Bank. When you donate to the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio, your gift brings joy and relief to families throughout our community. With your help, we can ensure that no child will sleep on the floor.

## Limited Employees Leave Desks to Make Tables

In March, 36 Limited Brands associates assembled kitchen tables right in their Columbus office buildings for Furniture Bank client families. The volunteers built nearly 30 tables, which Central Ohio families are now enjoying in their homes.

Limited Brands associate Dottie Martin is one of the volunteers that loved helping the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. "Working with the Furniture Bank reminded me of so many things that we take for granted," said Martin. "Other people don't even have something as simple as a kitchen table. How humbling that is?"

In November Limited Brands associates went to the Furniture Bank and assembled tables, stocked and organized houseware donations, and assisted staff by delivering furniture to client homes. Another group volunteered in early May.

"Limited Brands volunteers are always motivated, energetic and a pleasure to work with. They are interested in learning more about the Furniture Bank's mission and eager to find more ways to help further our cause," said Sean Becker, Community Relations Manager at the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring finally came to Central Ohio. April's many showers got the grass growing again. April also brought the Furniture Bank a generous outpouring of fundraising support. For the seventh straight year, Big Lots presented a tremendously successful fundraiser for our benefit. Big Lots and their vendor family helped the Furniture Bank raise over \$1 million to serve a record number of families in 2011.

May brings flowers and a very special day on the calendar. Mother's Day reminds us to celebrate the mom in all of our families. Here at the Furniture Bank, we celebrate moms every day. In the 12 months ending in April, we served 1,283 single moms struggling to provide beds and other basics for their kids. That's over 100 single moms a month!

Meanwhile, our budding dresser building project promises to erupt into full bloom soon. Much like the successful table assembly program, our dresser building project continues to attract new volunteers.

Our grassroots outreach efforts are growing, too. Visit our website or use the enclosed envelope to sign up for e-newsletters. Contact us to find out how to distribute door hangers to encourage furniture donations in your neighborhood.

Hope springs eternal every day at the Furniture Bank. We are grateful to our family of donors and volunteers for continuing to make that possible for thousands of Central Ohio families in need.

*Jim Stearns*

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## Corporate Support Sustains Families

Big Hearts for Empty Houses moved event locations this year, but the result was the same: an amazing outpouring of support for the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio, led by presenting sponsor Big Lots.

In addition to the dozens of volunteers who made the evening a night to remember, the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio would like to thank the entire Big Lots organization and their family of vendor partners.

On behalf of the staff, our agency partners, and especially our client families, thank you for your generous support as we turn all of those empty houses into homes.

*The funds generated by this event will allow us to provide free furniture to over 4,200 families in 2011.*



## Furniture Bank wins OANO Award

The Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations (OANO) awarded the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio a 2011 Award for Excellence for the table assembly program implemented in 2010.

The award comes courtesy of some key partners. First, generous donations of particle board from Sauder Woodworking made the table assembly program possible. A timely Ingram-White Castle Foundation grant helped purchase parts and supplies. Next, our regular volunteers who helped cut the parts and refine the table design kicked the program into gear. Finally, hundreds of volunteers from around the country made those parts into tables for families.

Although the award honors the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio, it recognizes the hard work, generosity, and community spirit of the partners and volunteers who make the furniture assembly program a continuing success story. Thanks to everyone involved, these tables have helped turn thousands of empty houses into homes.



OANO Award of Excellence

## Giviton.com Users Get Deals and Donate

Looking for great deals on local products and services? Look no further—giviton.com has arrived! Shop giviton.com and a portion of the proceeds support the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. Check out their website at HYPERLINK "http://www.giviton.com/" http://www.giviton.com/ to search for deals.

Also, if you shop at Kroger, don't forget to enroll in their Community Rewards program. Sign up online at [http://www.kroger.com/mykroger/Pages/community\\_rewards.aspx](http://www.kroger.com/mykroger/Pages/community_rewards.aspx) or visit your local Kroger store for more information.



## Big Hearts Sponsors

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